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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2979
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHAS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY 3952
RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY 0134
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY 0163
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 0351
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 0121
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 0334
RUEHDO/AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY 0182
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 0318
RUEHKU/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY 0129
RUEHMK/AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY 0217
RUEHMS/AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY 0038
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY 6038
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY 0196
RUEHYN/AMEMBASSY SANAA PRIORITY 0030
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY 0543
RUEHLA/AMCONSUL BARCELONA PRIORITY 2898
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

S E C R E T MADRID 001361

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EUR/ERA FOR SHAWN GRAY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/12/2017

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [SY](#) [IZ](#) [SP](#)

SUBJECT: SPAIN: MFA WILL LOOK AT FOREIGN FIGHTERS DEMARCHE
TO SARG

REF: A. STATE 92339

[B](#). MADRID 1328

[C](#). MADRID 1326

[D](#). EUR/ERA E-MAIL JULY 10

Classified By: DCM Hugo Llorens for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[1](#). (U) This message contains an action request. Please see
para. 4.

[2](#). (S) Poloff met with Spanish MFA Deputy Director General
for Terrorism Miguel Garcia-Herraiz on July 11 to share
talking points on a potential Spanish demarche to Arab
governments on stemming the flow of foreign fighters into
Iraq (Ref. A). Refs B and C detail Embassy high-level
engagement on this issue, securing agreement in principal
from Spanish National Security advisor Carles Casajuana and
MFA Political Director Rafael Dezcallar. Garcia-Herraiz said
that the U.S. appraisal of the situation appeared to
correspond with EU analysis, and that encouraging the SARG to
do more was a good idea. He noted that some of the concrete
measures suggested by USG (Ref. D) would represent a pretty
tall order for the SARG, but he agreed with the general
thrust. He pointed out that EU governments are keenly aware
that foreign fighters are leaving Europe for Iraq as well,
and he referenced the recent arrest of four individuals in
Catalonia accused of conducting terrorist recruitment.
Nevertheless, he said, the Islamists were still getting
through to Iraq. He added that the Spanish are seeing an
increasing flow into the Maghreb as opposed to or in addition
to Iraq.

[3](#). (S) Garcia-Herraiz said that Foreign Minister Moratinos
"will be visiting the region soon, which might be a good

opportunity." He asked whether Embassy could provide information on which if any Arab governments had individually agreed to approach the SARG. He also asked whether USG could provide more detail about which specific Arab nationalities were most commonly transiting Syria, noting that for Kuwaitis, Saudis, and Jordanians it seemed unnecessary. Garcia-Herraz undertook to provide a response to the Embassy within coming days, but he asked for clarification on the two points before Spain goes forward to the SARG.

¶4. (S) ACTION REQUEST: Post requests Department's guidance on potential involvement of FM Moratinos directly with Damascus. We do not want to discourage GOS support for our efforts to work with regional governments to stem the flow of foreign fighters to Iraq, but we are also mindful of the need to avoid allowing Moratinos - who perceives himself as having a special role in the Middle East - to portray himself as an intermediary between the U.S. and the SARG. Request response soonest since Moratinos, regional travel appears to be imminent. END ACTION REQUEST.

Visit Embassy Madrid's Classified Website;
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/madrid/>

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